CLAIMS

We claim:

SUB A17

1. A method of managing a data system designed to ensure the integrity of data and a file system designed to manage files, comprising the steps of:

(a) ensuring data from an external sources is received by the data system;

(b) ensuring the data is copied from the data system to the file system; and

(c) interpreting metadata to ensure data integrity is maintained during the copying of data from the data system to the file system.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data system that is designed to ensure the integrity of the data is a relational database following ACID protocols.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the metadata is stored in the relational database.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the data is performed through a communications device from an external source.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(d) directing a request to retrieve the data to:

the data system when the request is made prior to when the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed; or

the file system after the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

(e) ensuring the data is backed up; and

(f) ensuring the data on the data system is deleted after the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using the metadata to determine whether a request to retrieve the data should be directed to the file system.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes information concerning location of a most recent version of the data and the step of using the metadata.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of using the information concerning location to determine where a request to retrieve the data should be directed.

10. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy, transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy, transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata by using minimum ACID protocols.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of applying a filter to the data during the step copying the data from the data system to a file system.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the filter is either an anti-virus filter, an access-control filter or a security filter, or some combination thereof.

14. A method for storing data, comprising the steps of:

(a) initially receiving the data into a data system that is designed to ensure the integrity of the data;

(b) copying the data from the data system to a file system, designed to manage files, using protocols that ensure the integrity of data during the copying; and

(c) creating metadata that can be used to ensure the integrity of the data and describe and track the state and location of the data.

15. A method of transferring data between a first system and a second system while ensuring the integrity of the data, comprising the steps of:

(a) using metadata to determine when the data transfer is in progress;

(b) using metadata to determine when the data transfer has been successfully completed; and

(c) using the metadata to indicate when rollback procedures can be initiated from a backup.

16. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access the data to the second system when the metadata indicates that a data transfer has been successfully completed.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access the data to the first system when the metadata does not indicate that a data transfer has been successfully completed.

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